



Lourdes Catholic School

Academics ♦ Faith ♦ Community

Lourdes Catholic School is dedicated to providing an outstanding foundation for the spiritual, intellectual, emotional, technological, and physical needs of all individuals, preparing students for the future, while fostering a challenging environment of educational excellence.

Principal's Post

January 17, 2012

Dear Lourdes Catholic School Families,

Winter is finally here! The excitement in the school last week with the arrival of snow was very high. It was unfortunate that the wind chill was too cold for the students to enjoy playing outside. I am pleased that some of our students were able to get rid of some energy with extra time in the gym during lunch recess.

Thank you for taking the time to complete the survey last week. I appreciate your feedback. I look forward to using the data to help make decisions about the upcoming 2012-2013 school year.

2012-2013 preschool and kindergarten registration is underway for current LCS families. This registration will expand on January 24th to include families from the broader community that are not current LCS families. So, please return your registration soon. Registration for grades 1-8 will begin in early spring.

As you may know, we are expanding our preschool program next year to offer a 5-year old preschool class. This class does not replace kindergarten but allows for additional preparation for kindergarten. We have already received a strong response, and it will be great to continue to build our preschool program in our school.

We have not yet received the Iowa Assessments (formerly ITBS) scores for the tests taken in November. Form E was administered in November, which was different from the Forms A and B the students have taken since 2002. Form E was developed to measure the Iowa Core. With this new form, came the new name of the test and a new results sheet. The sheet that will be shared with you will look different than past years. Educators have been informed and assured that expectation for proficiency remains the same from Forms A and B to the new Iowa Assessments. I will offer more information to assist you with understanding the new results sheet when the results have been received by the school.

With the increase in use of technology in our building, we are in the process of expanding the school's bandwidth. We currently use 95% of our 1.5Mbps. It is my hope to increase to 3 Mbps starting in July 2012 and increase to 5 Mbps in subsequent years. Our current provider for our aggregation service

connection will be discontinuing the service this summer. For that reason, we are in the process of looking at bids from other providers. Our current aggregation service connection is of no cost to us, but we are looking at a monthly cost starting in July. Long story short: we need more bandwidth so we can continue to grow in the area of technology. We are currently looking into options that best fit the needs of our school.

We are less than 2 weeks away from Catholic Schools Week. As always, the CSW Committee is busy putting together a week filled with activities. Please mark your calendars to attend 10:30 Mass at Our Lady of Lourdes on Sunday, January 29th. Also, a "Buddy Lunch" reservation form was sent home to all families today. If you need another form, please contact the front office. More information about Catholic Schools Week will be shared in next week's update to the families.

As I have shared in previous notes, one goal of the Faith Formation Board is to improve communication between school and home. Highlights from the January FFB Meeting include:

1. Bandwidth discussion
2. Grant Writing
3. SJV marketing

For more information about the FFB, please see the website under "Organizations". The next meeting will be held February 16th.

Hope to see you as we celebrate our Catholic school.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Katie Selden, Principal